

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0020] Housing 20 has a proximal portion 38 and a distal portion 40. Proximal portion 38 is semi-circular in shape, and has a dimension that enables it to cover needle hub 10, when collar 18 has been press fitted to groove 24 and housing 20 pivoted to cover needle 12. Proximal portion 38 has an opening 39 at its back wall that allows the side of collar 18 that is enclosed by proximal portion 38 to be viewed when hub 10 is covered by housing 20. A perspective view of the opening provided by the semi- circular configuration of proximal portion 38 of needle housing 20 is shown in Fig. 8. Distal portion 40 of housing 20 extends from proximal portion 38 in the form of a narrow channel 42. Channel 42 is formed by an open slot through which needle 12 passes when housing 20 is pivoted towards the longitudinal axis 36 for covering needle 12. As shown in Fig. 3, the slot into channel 42 extends to the opening that forms the semi-circular configuration of proximal portion 38 of housing 20.

[0021] With reference to Fig. 4, collar 18 is shown to have been press fitted to the collar reception groove 24 at the distal portion 6 of syringe barrel 4. As shown, flanges 28 are matingly fitted to groove 24. The dimension of the inside diameter and more particularly the circumference formed by flanges 28 is such that it is slightly larger than the diameter of groove 24, so that collar 18 is rotatable about groove 24, after collar 18 is press fitted thereto. Collar 18 is fittable to groove 24 because of the elastic characteristics of the aforementioned conventional medical plastics from which collar 18, housing 20 and syringe barrel 4 are formed. Also, with reference to ~~Fig. 6~~ Figs. 5 to 8, note that there ~~are spaces 44 provided at~~ is a circumferential or annular space 44 formed between distal end 8 and the portion of hub 10 that extends from distal portion 6 of syringe barrel 4. Annular space 44 therefore surrounds at least one portion of needle hub 10 so that when collar 18 is forced fitted onto syringe barrel 4, the distal end 8 would slightly compress while at the same time collar 18 would slightly expand, so that with the appropriate pressing force, collar 18 is matingly fitted to the collar reception portion of the syringe barrel 4. Annular

space 44 thus facilitates the mating of collar 18 to the collar reception portion of syringe barrel 4.